

Amendments to the claims(this listing replaces all prior versions):

1. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
determining ~~the~~ node ID information of a second node device of a multi-node computer system; and
storing the node ID information of the second node device on a storage device located on a first node device of the multi-node computer system;
retrieving, from a storage device of the second node device, the node ID information for a third node device;
wherein the first node device is connected to the second node device, the third node device is connected to the second node device, and the second node device includes ~~a storage device containing~~ node ID information for a the third node device ~~connected to the second node device~~.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 2~~ claim 1 further comprising:
storing the node ID information for the third node device on the storage device located on the first node device;
wherein the third node device includes a storage device containing node ID information for a fourth node device connected to the third node device.
4. (Original) The method of claim 3 further comprising:
retrieving, from the storage device of the third node device, the node ID information for the fourth node device.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4 further comprising:

storing the node ID information for the fourth node device on the storage device located on the first node device;

wherein the fourth node device includes a storage device containing node ID information for a fifth node device connected to the fourth node device.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the node ID information is specified on a node ID specification device located on the second node device.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said determining the node ID information includes retrieving the node ID information from the node ID specification device of the second node device.

8. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein said determining the node ID information includes transmitting the node ID information stored on the node ID specification device to the first node device.

9. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
~~determining~~ retrieving node ID information of a first node device of a multi-node computer system from the first node device; and

storing the node ID information on a storage device located on a second node device of the multi-node computer system, wherein the second node device is connected to the first node device.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising:
allowing a third node device of the multi-node computer system to access the node ID information stored on the storage device of the second node device.

11 (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the node ID information is specified on a node ID specification device located on the first node device.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification device is one or more jumper pins.

13. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification device is one or more DIP switches.

14. (Original) The method of claim 11 wherein the node ID specification device is a read-only memory.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said ~~determining~~ retrieving the node ID information includes retrieving the node ID information from the node ID specification device of the first node device.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11 wherein said ~~determining~~ retrieving the node ID information includes transmitting the node ID information stored on the node ID specification device to the second node device.

17. (Currently Amended) A computer program product residing on a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon which, when executed by the processor, cause that processor to:

determine the node ID information of a second node device of a multi-node computer system; and

store the node ID information of the second node device on a storage device located on a first node device of the multi-node computer system;

retrieve, from a storage device of the second node device, the node ID information for a third node device;

wherein said first node device is connected to said second node device, the third node device is connected to the second node device, and said second node device includes ~~a storage device containing~~ node ID information for ~~a~~ the third node device ~~connected to said second node device~~.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said computer readable medium is a read-only memory.

19. (Original) The computer program product of claim 17 wherein said computer readable medium is a hard disk drive.

20. (Currently Amended) A processor and memory configured to:
determine the node ID information of a second node device of a multi-node computer system; and
store said node ID information of said second node device on a storage device located on a first node device of said multi-node computer system;
retrieve, from a storage device of the second node device, the node ID information for a third node device;

wherein said first node device is connected to said second node device, the third node device is connected to the second node device, and said second node device includes ~~a storage device containing~~ node ID information for ~~a~~ the third node device ~~connected to said second node device~~.

21. (Original) The processor and memory of claim 20 wherein said processor and memory are incorporated into a network server.

22. (Original) The processor and memory of claim 20 wherein said processor and memory are incorporated into a workstation.

23. (Currently Amended) A node ID discovery process comprising:
a node ID determination process for determining the node ID information of a second node device of a multi-node computer system; and

a node ID storage process for storing said node ID information of said second node device on a storage device located on a first node device of said multi-node computer system;

a remote node device retrieval process for retrieving, from said storage device of said second node device, said node ID information for said third node device;

wherein said first node device is connected to said second node device, the third node device is connected to the second node device, and said second node device includes ~~a storage device containing~~ node ID information for a the third node device ~~connected to said second node device~~.

24. (Currently Amended) The node ID discovery process of claim 23 further comprising:

~~a remote node device retrieval process for retrieving, from said storage device of said second node device, said node ID information for said third node device;~~

wherein said node ID storage process stores said node ID information for said third node device on said storage device located on said first node device.

25. (Currently Amended) A node ID discovery process comprising:
a node ID determination process for ~~determining~~ retrieving the node ID information of a first node device of a multi-node computer system from the first node device; and

a node ID storage process for storing said node ID information on a storage device located on a second node device of said multi-node computer system;

wherein said second node device is connected to said first node device.

26. (Original) The node ID discovery process of claim 25 further comprising:
an information access process for allowing a third node device of said multi-node computer system to access said node ID information stored on said storage device of said second node device.

27. (Currently Amended) A node ID discovery system comprising:
a multi-port switch containing a plurality of ports;
a I/O hub controller connected to one of said ports;
a scalable node controller connected to one of said ports;
at least one microprocessor connected to said scalable node controller;
a node ID determination process for ~~determining~~ retrieving the node ID information of said multi-port switch from said multi-port switch; and
a node ID storage process for storing said node ID information of said multi-port switch on a storage device located on said scalable node controller;
wherein said multi-port switch includes a storage device containing node ID information for said I/O hub controller.

28. (Original) The node ID discovery system of claim 27 further comprising:
a remote node device retrieval process for retrieving, from said storage device of said multi-port switch, said node ID information for said I/O hub controller;
wherein said node ID storage process stores said node ID information for said I/O hub controller on said storage device located on said scalable node controller.

29. (Currently Amended) A node ID discovery system comprising:
a multi-port switch containing a plurality of ports;
a I/O hub controller connected to one of said ports;
a scalable node controller connected to one of said ports;

at least one microprocessor connected to said scalable node controller;
a node ID determination process for ~~determining~~ retrieving the node ID information of
said I/O hub controller from said I/O controller; and
a node ID storage process for storing said node ID information of said I/O hub controller
on a storage device located on said multi-port switch.

30. (Original) The node ID discovery system of claim 29 further comprising:
an information access process for allowing a scalable node controller to access said node
ID information stored on said storage device of said multi-port switch.